

THE ILLINOIS FREE TRADER

Our Country, her Commerce, and her Free Institutions.

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS, FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1840.

NUMBER 6.

VOLUME I.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
GEORGE F. WEAVER & JOHN HISE,
Canal Street, nearly opposite the Mansion House.

TERMS:

Two dollars and fifty cents per annum, if paid in advance; Three dollars if not paid before the expiration of the first six months; And three dollars and twenty-five cents if delayed until the end of the year.

Advertisements inserted at \$1 per square for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year.

All communications, to ensure attention, must be post paid.

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OTTAWA is the seat of justice of La Salle county; is situated at the junction of the Fox river with the Illinois, 290 miles, by water, from Saint Louis, and mid-way between Chicago and Peoria. The population of Ottawa is about one thousand.

THE FREE TRADER.

OTTAWA, Friday, June 26, 1840.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

"Opposition to a National Bank, as fraught with danger to our free institutions and to the liberties of the people, from its necessarily great and controlling power over the general currency and business of the country. Opposition to the present Banking System, as defective in principle and unsafe in practice, and requiring a radical reform. A total separation of the fiscal concerns of Government from all Banking Institutions, as the best guarantee for the preservation of our National Independence. Encouragement to all Banks, based upon sound principles, with the ability and disposition at all times to redeem their bills in gold and silver, and an express provision in all Bank Charters, requiring ample security to be given to the State for the redemption of their issues in specie on demand, and the perpetual subjection of all acts of incorporation to the control of the Legislature."

Agents for the Illinois Free Trader.

The following gentlemen are authorized to act as agents of this paper, viz:

M. MOTT, Peru, La Salle county, Ill.
D. S. EMMERT, mail contractor.
C. G. MILLER, Dayton.
A. O. SMITH, Smith's Mills.
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C. W. REYNOLDS, P. M. Pontiac.
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Post Masters, and other individuals residing in La Salle and the adjoining counties, who are willing to act as agents in their respective neighborhoods, will please make the same known to us, by mail or otherwise.

Pennsylvania—"Old Democratic Berks"

We discover that the Opposition are calculating largely upon carrying Pennsylvania at the approaching Presidential election. We take the following paragraph from the Jefferson Democrat, published in "Old Berks," the fountain head of Democracy of the Union. As she goes, so goes the State. Pennsylvania is safe!

"Old Democratic Berks" has again got the right spirit infused in her democratic sons, and she will give a stronger pull for Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson than she did in 1836, when she gave for her favorites a majority of 3384! This she can do, and this she will do. Mark our prediction!

Kentucky—Robert N. Wickliffe, Esq.

It is really amusing to witness the efforts of the Opposition party, in endeavoring to convince the "good people" that the members of the Democratic party are leaving it and joining the "whig ranks. If they had not been guilty of the same deception on former occasions, they perhaps might create the belief that such was the case now. Every Democrat well remembers, that in 1828 the hero of New Orleans was defeated long before the election; and then, as now, their papers were filled with "changes," "revolutions," &c. Every Democrat well remembers, that in 1832 "General Jackson stood no chance of being elected," and long before the result was known, the Opposition had their candidate elected. Every Democrat well remembers that in 1836, Martin Van Buren "stood no possible chance of being elected President." Loudly did they then declaim against his "non-committalism" and "that he could not reach the Presidential chair through the influence of his predecessor," the illustrious Jackson. Most certainly every Democrat well remembers that such was the case, even if the Opposition have forgotten it!

That they are acting the same ridiculous farce at the present time, admits of no doubt. If ever the Democratic party were certain of success, that time is now. Notwithstanding the efforts made use of to deceive the People, and hide the correct issue from them, the prospect from every section of the Union is truly encouraging. The Democratic family is thoroughly united, and their fate may well be known by asking the simple question, "Have they ever been defeated taken so united?" We answer, No! Never!!

The prospects in Kentucky are truly of a cheering character. A number of the most prominent members of the whig party are now arraying themselves on the side of the People in their endeavors to separate the banking institutions from the fiscal concerns of the Government. When such men as BENJAMIN HARRIS, for many years a member of Congress, and whom John Randolph used to call a "butcher knife sharpened on a brickbat"—the celebrated HENRY DANIEL, formerly a member of Congress, and JOHN H. HELM, late Speaker of the House of Representatives of Kentucky leave the whig party, and openly denounce its candidate as unworthy the suffrages of the American People, what may we expect from Kentucky,

"the dark and bloody ground!" A perfect "Tennessee Revolution!"

Every Kentuckian is well acquainted with the character and standing of Ron' N. Wickliffe. For a number of years he has been a prominent member of the whig party, and represented Mr. Clay's own county in the State Legislature, and was well known to enjoy the confidence of Mr. Clay himself. Hear what Mr. Wickliffe says:

"I have thought well of General Harrison. I gave to him an ardent and animated support in 1836. I am not now unfriendly to him—yet, I confess that I feel a deep degree of humiliation when it appeared, that he had suffered three men in Cincinnati, to put forth that most dishonorable letter to the Oswego Association. The refusal of the Harrisburg Convention to publish to the world the principles by which the whigs are known and characterized as a party, deeply impaired my faith in their political integrity. The assumption of control over General Harrison, by an arrogant committee, and his acquiescence therein, sadly admonishes us that he is unfit to be the depository of this high trust. This, however, is merely personal, and goes to the personal qualifications of General Harrison for the Presidency.

"No man should be placed in the Presidency, save it be as the representative of some principles. To bestow the office as the reward of either civil or military services, without regard to the political principles maintained by the candidate, is at war with the genius of this government.

"Now, sir, I am wholly unable to satisfy myself with regard to General Harrison's views, touching all the great questions now at issue before the American people. Mr. Rives, in his late letter to the people of Virginia, took the ground, and reasoned with considerable plausibility, that General Harrison is opposed to a National Bank. Such, surely is not his political attitude before the people of Kentucky. Upon a question of such vital interest—the question of the currency that which has so deeply agitated this nation, it is lamentable to think, that a candidate for the Presidency, should keep his opinions so shrouded in mystery that in one section of the Union, he may be quoted on one side, and the reverse in another. Yet, candor compels the admission, that not only upon this, but upon nearly every subject that enters into the contest, is there a like degree of reserve exhibited.

I will not charge Gen. Harrison with being tainted with that political malady, if it ever takes firm hold upon our system, dissolves this Union, as surely as there now exists a slave population. I will not impute to him this monstrous sin, for which, if he be guilty, no atonement can be had in the splendor of his military deeds, or in the purity of his past life. But if his friends, with his consent deem it right to "make no further declaration of principles for the public eye," then is he morally responsible for giving countenance to this fanatical sect. His conduct does most painfully contrast with the magnanimous position of his opponent—the President of the United States—who has alienated many of his Northern friends, by his stern fidelity to the South and West, upon this momentous question. I speak to facts which the country knows. Party feeling and inexcusable ignorance may deny to him this honorable meed of praise, but the day is not distant, when the judgment of this nation will be awarded, unbiased by the transitory influences of an excited political struggle. Upon a subject of this character, involving so much of feeling, and pregnant with so much of calamity and woe, I choose my station on his side, who offers himself, an impassable barrier to these mad fanatics, rather than on his side, whose position is at least equivocal, and in regard to which he maintains a mysterious silence.

With my limited powers of observation, I can see no triumph to be achieved by the election of General Harrison, but the simple substitution of one set of officers for another. This might be desirable, did it involve nothing more. But the country ought not to be invoked to its trust in Gen. Harrison, when he is not willing to put his trust in the country, but appeals to its "generous confidence" in advance, as is distinctly avowed by his accredited committee.

In coming to this conclusion, it gives me great pain to part from those with whom I have been politically associated. I feel deeply indebted to the county of Fayette for its repeated manifestations of kindness to me, and have endeavored to pay off the debt by a faithful application of my time and attention to its interests and character. I trust that the debt is paid—if not—very well aware am I, that this announcement of my conclusions will, perhaps, forever, put it out of my power to do so. If, however, the account is balanced, we shall part in peace.

R. N. WICKLIFFE.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE "FREE TRADER."

TROY GROVE, Ill., June 15th, 1840.

Gentlemen: I here enclose for your paper the following letter, which was placed in the Peru Post Office, and directed to the "Ninawah Gazette" for publication, with a view to correct the errors and misstatements of a dialogue published in that print of the 23d ultimo, in which we consider ourselves injured by a false statement of our politics. This injustice I have vainly hoped to be corrected by the editors of the same paper in which it had arisen, without troubling any other with the statements of the annexed letter.

TROY GROVE, Ill., }
June 15th, 1840. }

Mr. Ninawah:

Sir,—By some strange fatality, your paper of the 23d ult. has found its way into our Grove—in which we are not a little surprised to find the political feelings of this neighborhood strangely misrepresented in a dialogue, purporting to have taken place in your office, between a farmer of this Grove, and one from "Granville." That "we are all Whigs, sir, and we rush it with a power for the old soldier," is that of which we complain, and which we unequivocally deny. And "the sayings and theories of Van Buren are nothing but disappointments and our distressing experience tells us something is mighty weak about the administration?" are also two more round assertions which we are likewise forced to contradict in terms equally plain. The sayings and theories, promising and pledges of the Van Buren men, have been faithfully and fully observed, and honestly redeemed. That "mighty weakness about the administration" of which G. F. speaks, is, to your certain knowledge a tower of Democratic strength, supported by all the good qualities of the five grand orders of architecture, which has stood the constant fire of the Federal "bell-muzzled blunder-buss" so ably elevated and directed by "Tip," and other small gun-boats for the last twenty years, without sustaining the slightest shock. A weakness, if you choose to call it such, that will continue a source of mortification to G. F. as long as the American people continue to possess the same high-minded political intelligence, for which they are so much admired by all the intelligent nations of the earth.

From experience, we have no reason to doubt the efforts and wish of G. F. "to turn things exactly upside down," and that "such are the views we (editors) entertain." This we know to be compatible with the unwearying efforts and views of the persons of the party; in perfect accordance with their principles. But we were not before aware, that you were about to set fire to the "Prairie," as G. F. calls it, by some bought up Loco Foco match, with which you intend to blow up the whole Democratic creation! Whigs, be cautious, or you may be found too near the magazine in her explosion in November; when you will be blown into a grave of dumb forgetfulness, without any funeral honors except the homespun winding sheet of the old hero, and the grating and discordant sounds of the party;—from which quiet abode we shall only hear, in death-like weakness and broken accents, the high hopes and flattering prospects that once animated a vain, imaginary, and ambitious party. T. G. F. says "we are tired of quacks and quack experiments." Admitting that to be so, T. G. F., and we must be tired of existence. For the allusion cannot be applied to the Democratic party. It is only appropriate to himself and political associates, as they have universally failed in their efforts of practice, for want of wholesome, constitutional and suitable medicine; and for want of ability, patriotism and skill to prescribe and administer. This is the undeniable and mathematical cause of their failures—which defeats prove conclusively that his allusion has no correct application, and that it applies with perfect analogy to himself and party. Therefore, they are the quacks who are industriously engaged in sowing among the people quack experiments and deceptive theories.

From feelings of justice in common with the people of this Grove, I have drawn up these observations, which I trust you will insert in your paper, with a view to inform the people correctly of the politics of the place, and to remove any false impression that might have grown out of the dialogue alluded to.

Yours, very respectfully,

A. FARMER.

Dr. Duncan, of Ohio.

The following paragraph is the conclusion of Dr. Duncan's speech in the House of Representatives:

"In conclusion, let me say, the democracy understand and appreciate their principles. They have stood by them in prosperity and adversity, through bank panics and federal frauds, through good and evil report. They are not now to be driven from their position by the stale cry of 'panic!' or drawn from their

principles by the empty show and buffoon display of log cabins, hard cider and shin-plaster—certificate—military—renown. Principle is the watchword with the democracy, and principle they will maintain. The democracy of this country hug to their bosoms, and cherish in their hearts their principles as they reverence the sacred memories of their ancestors, who secured them with their treasure, their blood and their lives; they will as soon be guilty of the base ingratitude of forgetting the one, as to desert the other, either by threats, flattery or bribery."

Mr. Van Buren.

Mr. Rittenhouse, of Alabama, thus eulogizes our distinguished President.

"Could I consider him non-committal, who so frankly and early proclaimed himself on the new and denounced Sub-Treasury? Could I consider him timid, who, though assaulted by more enemies, placed in greater difficulties, and submitted to a fiercer ordeal than any administration ever yet encountered, has calmly & firmly carried out its policy and smiled at the vindictiveness of his foes? Sir, fate and malignity had scattered, like the savage oracles of the olden superstition, burning ploughshares in his path, that the darkness of our calamities had obscured. Of humble parentage, endowed with no transcendent eloquence, wearing no soldier's laurels, he has nothing wherewith to dazzle the people from their propriety; and the sustained confidence of his countrymen is no feeble evidence of the justice of his cause. I do not exaggerate his claims, therefore, when I pronounce him the firm, courteous, and able statesman; the very man for the times, the pure impersonification of principles."

The Difference in Material.

To show which party is composed mostly of the bone and sinew of the nation, we would submit the following facts.

The late Democratic Convention held in Massachusetts was composed of two hundred farmers, one hundred mechanics, three doctors, four lawyers, four custom-house officers, one manufacturer, nineteen traders, and not one bank officer or speculator.

The Harrison convention held in Ohio was composed of 542 bank officers, directors, &c. 743 office-holders, 346 lawyers and doctors, and 1048 merchants, clerks and speculators, in one State Convention, in all twenty-six hundred and sixty-nine; representing the interests of the poor man and the laboring community, and presenting Gen. Harrison as the log cabin candidate!

Now let the voter judge for himself which is the party of the poor man and which of the rich man. Which would naturally possess the most good feeling for the laboring man, and which for the aristocratic nabobs which infest the country? All the cry about democracy by the Opposition, is like the dove wearing the peacock's feathers—only put on to be torn off as soon as he thought himself cleverly decked with his borrowed plumage.—*York Press.*

Next Presidential Election.

We cannot believe that the people of this country can be made to support a man for the Presidency who conceals from them his political sentiments. More especially, at this present time, when the struggles and embarrassments, which the vicious banking policy of the country entailed upon us, are about to be terminated forever. We candidly believe that the people never had as much at stake in the result of any election from the days of the elder Adams down as in the present. If the democracy are defeated, the toils which they have undergone, the afflictions which they have suffered will be fruitless; and the reforms in government policy, for which they have been so long and laboriously struggling, will be wrested from them.

Is it not essential, then, that the course of policy to be pursued by Gen. Harrison should be distinctly marked, that a plain and definite issue may be made? What man ever desired the suffrages of his fellow-citizens before without first frankly avowing his views of great and agitating public questions? Did you ever, friendly reader, imagine that your vote would be solicited in favor of one whose lips are sealed to friend and foe? And yet this muzzling system is defended, yes, fellow-citizens, defended! But by whom? Not by the people at large, but by political gamblers, who move the wires behind the scenes, and are mainly interested in the old General's election! It is defended by stock-jobbers! swindling bankers! bankrupt merchants! and monied capitalists who have not a single interest in common with the mass. They do not desire to ask questions, and why? They are well informed of the General's sentiments, and their only hope lies in keeping this knowledge from the public!

Gen. Harrison, fellow-citizens, is in favor of a BANK that will swallow up the government and the people; and, if his party once get the power, they will charter one which shall last perpetually, if they can. This is the reason why he is not permitted to speak! Do not be deceived by the pretended gratitude of this swindling faction for the services of Gen. Harrison. It is all interest, interest, interest that governs them. The noble feelings of gratitude never warmed into life a generous feeling in their cold, calculating, selfish breasts! If General Harrison had been opposed to a Bank, he would have been whistled off, and all these hypocritical cries about the war-worn soldier would have never waked an echo among the hills and valleys of our country. His name would have reposed in the stillness of oblivion.

This restless, ambitious faction, with the same leaders, Webster, Clay and others, were was it in 1828 and 1832, when that brave soldier and accomplished civilian, General Jackson, was a candidate for the Presidency? Did you hear, then, reader, that any thing was due to the time worn veteran, for distinguished services in the field? No, nothing. The tongue, now so eloquent in gratitude, was then dipped in gall and wormwood. Instead of receiving the reward so nobly earned in a life of toils and privations, not even simple justice could be done him by those now so grateful! Do you wish to know the secret of all this? General Jackson was a Democrat, opposed to Federalism and hostile to a National Bank! He was not a whig! He was not interested in carrying out their schemes of personal aggrandizement, and the sense of gratitude never penetrated their souls.—*Chi. Dem.*

From the New York Weekly Herald.
Extraordinary project of England against the United States.

COMBINED INFLUENCE OF THE BRITISH ANTI-SLAVERY AND EAST INDIA INTERESTS AGAINST THE SOUTHERN INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. EXTENSION OF THE CULTIVATION OF COTTON IN INDIA. PROBABLE EFFECT ON THE SOUTH.

The separate and the combined movements of the British government, the East India Company, and the British Anti-Slavery Society, at the present time, in relation to the slave labor system in the United States, are not only curious, but are immensely important, as deeply affecting the interests of the people of this country.

If any one ever doubted that the British East India Company was determined to build up its own interests at the expense of all the great planting interests of the United States, those doubts will be removed on reading the following statement of the operations of that Company.

Its members have an immense extent of country, and hundreds of thousands of slaves to cultivate the soil, which will produce cotton and sugar of the first quality, in abundance. They wanted first to destroy the West India interests, and then the planting interests of this country. They effected the former by means of the Abolition Society, whose movements and schemes they fostered, fomented and perfected, until they almost annihilated the property of the sugar planters in Jamaica and elsewhere. This will enable them to bring their East India sugar into market with a profit, which they could not do before without a protecting duty.

Their next movement was to foster, foment, and spread abolition doctrines in the United States, with a view to break up the cotton trade of the South. They have sent agents here, and books, and money, and all sorts of inducements to the fanatics to break up the system of slavery. Failing in this, they have sent out agents to examine into the *modus operandi* of our cotton growing, cleaning, packing, &c., and have procured several skillful Americans to go out to India to put the American system into practice. By this aid and the labor of their slaves, whom they call "ryots," but who are really slaves in a most miserable state, they believe they can cultivate cotton enough to supply all England, in a few years.

To promote the culture of cotton in India, the government, or India Board of Directors, recently appropriated £12,000 sterling, and appointed an agent, Captain Bayles, who has recently been in the southern part of this country, for the purpose of gaining all the necessary information respecting the method pursued in the production of the article in the southern states of North America. The cotton gin being an American invention, and its improvements to the present time having been confined to America, the English hitherto have not been able to make gins successfully, or have not been able to introduce them into India, or adopt the plan of tillage which has, by the skill

and enterprise of the Americans, been carried to so high a degree of perfection.

In the fulfilment of his mission Capt. B. arrived in New Orleans in February last, and proceeded to examine into the management of a large number of the best conducted cotton estates situated in Louisiana and Mississippi; and succeeded in engaging twelve planters and overseers to proceed to Surat, in India, at a salary of from 10 to £1200 per annum, and articulated them to remain for a period of five years. He also purchased several of the latest and best improved cotton gins, and procured models of gin houses, and propelling machinery, cotton presses, &c., together with a lot of the best ploughs and hoes for cultivating cotton.

It is also the desire of the Board of Directors of the East India Company, to start the manufacture of cotton gins, presses, &c., in England, for the supply of the East India plantations, and other cotton countries, such as Egypt, Brazil, the United States, &c., simultaneously with the attempt to augment and extend the cultivation of cotton in India. For this purpose a gentleman who has made important improvements in the cotton gins, and has devoted a number of years past to this branch of manufacture at the south and its introduction among the planters, has been engaged to go out to England to superintend the manufacture of this important description of machinery. The best machines have been bought and sent out to England as models to build from, together with 1000 lbs. of cotton in the seed state, to try the gins with, and let the workmen see the *modus operandi* of the machines, so as to enable them to construct by actual experience, the best gins that can be made.

This will be a new and important branch of manufacture for Great Britain, and independent of supplying India, other cotton markets in the world would afford excellent places for the sale of such machines. In the United States it requires almost one gin to every 250 bales of cotton. A gin is worth, on the average, at least 300 dollars. To gin a crop therefore of 1,800,000 bales, would require 7,200 gins, which at \$300 each, would amount to \$2,160,000. About 25 per cent go out of use annually by wear and tear. So that to gin the present crop of the United States, would require an annual supply of about \$580,000 worth of gins. In addition to this, the outfit of presses, driving power, &c., cost considerable money. So that, if England can succeed even in supplying these machines to the cotton growing countries, independent of the India market for the same, the bare object of manufacturing this machinery, is of great consequence to her. But taken in connection with the extension of the cultivation of cotton in India, the scheme becomes a gigantic enterprise, and is one of such vast importance, that the nation will spare no pains or expense to accomplish it. If \$50,000 a year will not do, she will expend a greater sum, in order to succeed. The object is, to make India supply cotton sufficient for the English market, and to make England independent of this country for the immense supplies of cotton now derived from the United States, which amounts to near about \$60,000,000 annually. The low prices of labour in India, being three cents per day for laborers, (they finding themselves), combined with the vast extent of climate and soil favorable to the cultivation of cotton, they think with due encouragement, will enable them to compete most successfully with the southern states of North America, where nobody estimates negro labor at less than 25 cents per day.

Capt. Bayles and his party sailed out on the last trip of the Great Western to England. The gentleman engaged to superintend the manufacturing of the machinery in England, is to go out soon—probably in the British Queen.

Such is the outline of the gigantic scheme of the East India Company. There is no doubt that the British Government have also fostered these plans with a view of weakening the power of America, and rendering England as much as possible independent of the United States. And there is no doubt that the commercial interests of this country, will be greatly affected by these schemes; and the only way for us to act is to encourage our domestic manufactures, and the home consumption of our cotton. In this way alone, can we be independent of Great Britain. The subject is full of interest.

The Candidate of "Necessity."

The Columbus Enquirer has the following:

"Gen. Harrison is not supported by us from choice, but from necessity. We pretend not to approve of all his political views and practices, nor shall we contend that he is a man of extraordinary wisdom or virtue."